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It is fitting, in this Centennial year, to pause in the hurried, onward movement of active life and cast the mind backward over the fields of experience.

It is well to consider those circumstances under which our country began its career, to determine whether it is still on its true course and where its journey will end. Permit your attention to be drawn to its creating, sus-

taining, or destroying force.

In 1776, July 4th, after a long period of inceptive growth, the National Mind was incarnated. This vital spark was embodied in that Declaration, conceived in the patriotism of men who were forced to this act by the cupidity & tyranny of a dominant power. A power, which, by its desire to gain a tribute, lost a realm; which imposed a tax on merchandise that gave birth

to a republic. This birth, proclaimed
by that Declaration, was hailed
by the people with universal joy.
Those who commemorate that
grand event this year in Phil-
adelphia, will do well to observe
at Independence Hall that
Freedom Bell, which first struck
the key-note of the nation's mind,
speaking in prophetic tones the
inscription, which, by a strange
coincidence, known only in the
nation's destiny, was graven on

its side: "Proclaim Liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."

This was the incarnating principle. The moment the words were sounded the growing desire for Independence was energized.

Unity, the first essential element of the national mind, was now established; and every link in the chain that welded the hands and the hearts of the people to their hopes for a country was Liberty. Not alone in their desire to be

freed from an oppressive control,
but liberty in that broadest ^{and} true-
est of all definitions, "Security
against wrong." Liberty, first
to become a nation of the world,
^{and} within that nation, liberty in
the control of person ^{and} property;
liberty of speech ^{and} of press; Lib-
erty in the formation of law,
^{and} the exercise of justice; Liber-
ty in foreign intercourse, ^{and} home
trade; in civil courts, ^{and} mil-
itary camps; ^{and} liberty to wor-

ship God. Security against that
long list of oppressions named
in the declaration ^{and} without
parallel in history; security
under the protection of a gov-
ernment ordained by divine law
^{and} sustained by the united will
of the protected. Committed to
these principles, the national
mind derived its strength from
the unity of its purposes, ^{and} its
vigor from the rectitude of its
motives. It sought to found an

asylum for the oppressed of the world wherein the people should wear the sovereign crown of power. The inspiration gained from the noble ends in view gave to the nation's mind an impulse which elevated it to to the sublime height of unselfish devotion to the country's good. Probity, the second essential element, was the striking characteristic of its early growth. Witness this in that line of 2,000

Pennsylvania troops which left
their camp in Morristown in mu-
tiny, because they had no pay,
no clothing, no food, ^{and} no pros-
pect of relief; ^{and} when met, on their
way to Philadelphia, with offers
to supply all their wants, indig-
nantly refused, because the emis-
saries came from the enemy's
camp ^{and} the condition of the
offer was desertion. They seized
their tempters ^{and} delivered them
up as spies ^{and} the strength of

this element in the national mind appeared in a prompt refusal of reward for this act, ^{and} when tardy relief came from their country they cheerfully returned to its service. Another sublime appearance occurred when Robert Morris ^{and} others came forward with their wealth ^{and} laid it on their country's altar.

Patriotism, the noblest element that ever graced the nation's mind overlapped all others ^{and} touched

every fiber of its substance,
permeating it from the loftiest
intellect of age to the very bot-
tom where it reached the inno-
cence of youth inspiring there
there the highest purposes of life.

The nation's mind was
then without a stain. Its integ-
rity commanded the respect of its
enemy. The justness of its cause
and the defense of its life in an
unequal contest gained for its
support friends like La Fayette.

Its final triumphnd the establish-
ment of its principles have been
evolve from such a weight of
human opposition, nd by such
manifest accord with immuta-
ble laws that we are led to
hopes of its immortality.

We are told that history repeats
itself. That of republics has been
one of rapid rise to power, of
brilliant, though brief careernd
inglorious decline. Washington ex-
pressed doubts of his country's

future; but that was in the days of its infancy. Jefferson wrote: "I have been among the most sanguine in believing that our Union would be of long duration. I now doubt it much, and see the event at no great distance." That was fiftyfour years ago. Ivan Golovin, an eminent Russian writer, said: "A visit to the United States has the strange property of cooling democrats. Again I tell you that the manifest destiny

of the States is disunion. I do not
give the Union eight years to last."
Twentyone years have lapsed
since then ^{and} Russia can tell
better today the degree of its per-
manence. The statements were
made five years before the war,
^{and} their cause may be traced
to the completer utterance of the
national mind in the Consti-
tution, when a link was inser-
ted in that harmonious chain
which did not bear the name

of liberty. The terrible struggle between right ^{and} wrong, so vividly portrayed by Victor Hugo in the mind of Jean Valjean, faintly describes the real conflict in the nation's mind to wrench away that link ^{and} weld the broken chain. But men of our own day ^{and} clime are disturbed by fears of the nation's safety.

They protest against foreign immigration. Forgetting that a nation united like this

never was, that a mixed race
of people like ours never lived,
they reason by analogy & con-
clude that our country has
passed the zenith of its power,
& the mountain tops which
appear on the western horizon
of history are already gilded
by its declining glory. The
summing decline is not the fall
of the Sun, it is but the Ce-
lestial Empire rising in the
west, whose people come in

at the Golden Gate to sun themselves for a while in our abundant light, and the gilded appearance which disturbs the alarmist, is but glimmer of his rays on their shaven crowns.

The cry of "corruption" is constantly sounded in our ears, ^{is} not without reason.

The second element of the national mind has become diseased. Generosity has left its high position in this

line of virtues for the nation
does not need its assistance
now. But Avarice has no bus-
iness to occupy the vacant
place. Generosity claimed only
its expenses during eight
years service in a costly war,
while Avarice is unsatisfied
with \$50,000 for one year's pay
in time of peace. Men now
run away with fortunes
which they they have plum-
dered from their country's

altar. Aye, the wealth which
Robert Morris & his friends
laid away upon that sacred
place has been basely stolen
and carried away in shame.

But the national mind will
ever hold the deeds of those pa-
triot in sacred remembrance,
& the overmastering force of
its just indignation will,
in the end, overtake him who
dares to violate their bequest. To-
day it pursues the unfortunate Bellknop.

But who can say that the honesty, integrity and honor of the national mind are destroyed?

It is but analogy to reason general disease from a few bad cases, and even these are evidence of soundness at heart.

A certain condition of the permanency of the life principle is growth; and, in order to preserve a healthy tone, the forces which develop growth must be attended by constant

decay; and the worn-out matter must be removed from the path of life or death will ensue. Should our language cease to receive new words & to cast off the old, it would die. The Latin & Greek are lifeless because this change in them has ceased. If decay in the human system terminates, the result is a morbid, unnatural growth; an excrescence appears & life is jeopardized.

The dangerous substance must
be removed & the avenues of life
remain free. This principle in
the national mind is under
the same conditions, & the law
of natural selection applies
here: those qualities best fitted
to survive, live, & the imprac-
tical, the illiberal & the crim-
inal qualities come to the
surface & perish. Then let
investigation go on. Let the
political party hearse gath-

is up all the "dead corpses"
of corruption for final in-
terment in the potter's field.

When Mr. Chymers investigates
Babcock and by accident makes
a discovery in Pendleton's clos-
et he should not be alarmed
and want to pass by, no mat-
ter what party is exposed; but
the work should be thorough,
and all the effete matter in the
body politic should be purged,
and the national mind be

Purified.

But sterner dangers than these confront us. While unity in supporting the government is still maintained, it is a unity of opposing forces which diverge from this point according to their different lines of policy.

Adherence to party has supplanted devotion to country, and Ambition is usurping the

Throne of Patriotism. The work of these factors will endanger the nation's life, ^{and} they need to be crushed; by a return to that policy which sweeps away party lines and demands of all public officials, capability, honesty and faithful service.

Patriotism is not dead, but it lies like one under the influence of an opiate.

It is no longer animated
by that high spirit of ac-
tivity which reared the shaft
on Bunker Hill. Witness
the supine effort to revive it
in the attempt to complete
the Washington Monument.

In this we may read the
history of its feeble decline.
The design by Robert Mills
which aimed to rear a mar-
ble shaft six hundred feet
within the dome of heaven

at a cost of one million,
one hundred ^{and} twenty thousand
dollars was commensu-
rate with the patriotic spirit
which sought to honor the na-
tion's hero. But the spirit
waned ^{and} weakened. The shaft
is now but one hundred and
seventy feet in height ^{and} efforts
repeatedly made to raise
funds to complete it have
failed. Patriotism sleeps.
But its sleep will not prove

fatal; the commotion of this centennial epoch in American history, which profoundly stirs the nations mind, will rouse it to life, and it will drive the usurper, Ambition, from its throne.

The achievements of the national mind are recorded on that living page of history whose name is America, and the record extends beyond her boundaries to every

foreign shore. It is a record of wonderful development of in educational power; of surprising growth in literature, philosophy and the fine arts; of incomparable skill in mechanical ^{and} engineering construction, where its enterprise, invention ^{and} execution stand unrivaled with the work of nations gray with age; of partial mastery of the forces and

obstacles of nature, using the former to surmount the latter. Witness the example of its work on the sea; coursed above by its powerful agent, steam, and tunneled below by electric fire.

But there is morbid growth in the national mind which demands consideration. Naturally we find this in the department of its greatest activity. The

organ of its utterance, the printing press is the instrument of this production.

We need a literary fanning-machine through which to pass all printed matter as it leaves the press, so that, like grain, it may be winnowed before it is fed to the people.

How worthless papers and papers would fly like chaff before the wind; how books would lie, like rubbish,

dead weight on the sieve;
and the grains of smut
would be cleared away
and our literary bread
would be clean. The de-
mand for this is equal
to the desire for national
purity, ^{as} there are dark
stains to be removed be-
fore this hope can be re-
alized. During the past two
years the national mind
has been dragged through

the most slimy pool that
was ever exposed on the
printed page; 2nd without
the establishment of a single
fact for the people, or the
production of any good
for humanity; 3rd by ed-
itors who bet on the im-
morality of the people
as speculators do on the
rise of the market, and
then boast of their increased
circulation as the gambler

does of his gains. Refer to
that issue of the Chicago
Times in which the first
page is devoted to a state-
ment of its circulation
as compared with the Daily
Inter-Oceannd Tribune
showing a heavy increase
during the period of the
Pecker scandal. May the
quickenning wrath of an
offended Being strike re-
morse to the souls of those

who plant their poison-
crop of obscene matter
in the innocent minds
of growing youth, infect-
ing the very germ of the
national mind where it
springs to life in its pur-
est soil: acts paralleled in
^{our} history only by the
murderous policy of Great
Britain when she scattered
her spurious counterfeits of
continental money among

the colonies. The result of this fiendish deed was the destruction of their currency, and the consequence of these depraved acts will be the death of morality. For a fitting illustration turns to mythology, where the dying Centaur gave to the wife of Hercules a charmed philter with directions to use it in case she were likely to lose the love of

her husband. A mistaken
occasion arose and she pre-
sented to him a garment
suffused with the charm;
but it proved to be the ven-
om of the hydra and, though
he tore off the tunic, the poi-
son clung to his flesh and,
the record says, consumed
even the marrow in his
bones. Morality needs to
be saved from such ghast-
ly destruction. If it were

possible to establish a court
of censors in the interest of
truth, justice and humanity,
to pass judgment on all
printed matter before it is
issued that court should at
once be founded. You ask,
where, sir, is then your
boasted liberty of press?
In reply, I repeat, "security
against wrong". That liber-
ty of press which is the
death of morality and the

in of purity is a liberty
from which we must hope
to be saved.

We need a council for the
for the care of public morals
more than the ancient states
of Greece. That condition of
public sentiment which per-
mits the posting of plac-
ards advertising bawdy
shows; which will tolerate
the existence and license the use
of public brothels, calls

loudly for the adoption of
statute laws that will purge
our cities and wipe from the
face of our fair land
the sinks of iniquity
which blight the nation-
al growth and poison its
mind.

It is time for the na-
tional mind to apply
the lessons of history; to
avoid those perils which
have caused the fall of

nations; to change, somewhat, the direction of its present course, which leads to the wreck of its noblest elements, and return to that broad highway on which it commenced the journey. The national mind is not simply the expressed will of the people; it is not alone the entire intellect of the nation: this is only its broad base and it rises

to the highest realm of
the spirit world where
its summit is crowned
by those immortal souls
who first uttered its
thought and colored
its life, who guard it
today ^{and} whose influ-
ence will guide it
safely through all dan-
gers to the fulfillment
of its destiny.

